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March 24, 2018

Dear Valued Lupus Patient:

One of the most satisfying aspects of our practice is being able to make a difference. Many individuals who we treat for lupus participate in lupus support and advocacy organizations and these efforts are often exhilarating and fulfilling. Our office has had a clinical trials unit since 1994. During that time, many patients have had an opportunity to participate in several of our studies and initiatives. Numerous important findings have resulted from our published findings. These include being one of the first centers to make Benlysta available, receive other groundbreaking drugs including rituximab, epratuzumab, and anti IL-6 agents. Others have helped us improve the search for better biomarkers of disease activity, efforts to find genes that play a role when lupus patients develop specific organ complications, develop apps that correlate patient reported outcomes with inflammatory activity, and several of the metrics of disease activity (BICLA, SRI) were developed at our facility.

Dr Lee and I are frequently asked if they can participate in a study. As a result, below are listed research opportunities that you might be eligible to participate in.

1. **Voclosporin** is a promising oral agent for lupus nephritis (Arunia Pharmaceuticals)
2. **GDC-0853** is a tablet that blocks BTK and is promising for generalized lupus activity (Genentech)
3. **RSLV-132** (Resolve) is an intravenous preparation invented by Keith Elkon MD at the University of Washington, Seattle, that acts as an RNase and clears skin lesions in patients who have anti SSA antibody.
4. **Filgotonib/GS9876** (Gilead) are tablets that block RNase and syk in cell surface receptors that cause lupus rashes and being tested for discoid lupus.
5. **Rayos** (funded by the Lupus Research Alliance) is a prednisone preparation that is probably more effective than traditional forms of steroids and allows lower doses. Patients on 5 mg of prednisone a day with fatigue are eligible.
6. **Evogotinib** (Merck) is an oral agent that blocks BTK and is very promising for lupus arthritis and generalized activity.

7. **SPOCS** (AstraZeneca) follows active lupus patients every 6 months with blood tests, questionnaires, and physical exam to explore the natural history of lupus over a 3-year period.
8. **SABLE** (Glaxo Smith Kline) is a 5-year observational study of active lupus patients treated with or without benlysta. Visits every 6 months where patients fill out forms, have blood testing and physical exams.
9. **EXAGEN** study (Avisc) follows patients with 6 months of symptoms or less who have undifferentiated connective tissue disease for 3 years to see if a complement activation test predicts those will develop lupus
10. **Ustekinumab (Stelara, Johnson/Johnson)** is a drug on the market for Crohn's and psoriasis that will be studied for lupus.
11. **SMILE** study (National Institutes of Health) enrolls patients with undifferentiated connective tissue disease and randomizes them to plaquenil or placebo to see if the former prevents lupus from developing.
12. **Atacicept** (EMD Merck Serono) is similar to belimumab but may be a bit stronger. It is given as a shot every 2 week.

Patients who qualify for one of these studies receive standard follow up care from our office with no out of pocket cost during the study (drug studies only), a small stipend that covers gas, parking and mileage, flexibility with scheduling and for one year after completion, you continue to receive standard follow up care at no out of pocket cost. If you are interested, please contact Karla Alvarez at 310/360-9197, or e mail Dr Lee or Dr Wallace directly. drlee@attunehealth.com or drdanielwallace@attunehealth.com

New studies are always being added, and if you are interested in being contacted for future studies, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel J Wallace MD
and
Christine Lee MD